

May 17, 1973

Mrs. D. Culbertson  
R.R. #3  
Peoria, Illinois 61607

Dear Mrs. Culbertson:

As you do too, I wish we knew more about learning disabilities and their causes. I doubt that your labor and delivery had any relation to his troubles now, especially if the doctor helped him breathe right after birth. The use of "low forceps" is often indicated and saves hours of labor.

I wonder how well his eyes function. Have you had a thorough examination of vision? I know this is not easy to do in a hyperactive child, but a visual problem could account for lots of his problems as you describe them. I do not believe that any emotional problem you might have had when you were pregnant, or the separation from his father for those two years is related.

I'm sure you are encouraging him to do anything he can do. Have you tried music? It is being used in many special schools, and seems to help reading later. No doubt you have had his hearing tested, as well. His younger brother and sister should be a help too. The Institute of Logopedics in Wichita, Kansas, has had good success with many of these children.

Thank you for writing me.

Sincerely,

Virginia Apgar, M.D., M.P.H.

VA:jor  
bcc: VL